



Statement re: *Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic* before U.S. Supreme Court (the Patient Rights Medicaid Case)

WLP joined a friend-of-the-court brief arguing the Justices must protect patients' well-established right to choose a health care provider from unlawful state interference

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PENNSYLVANIA // April 1, 2025: On April 2, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic*, a case centered on whether a state that eliminates a health care provider from its Medicaid program unlawfully undermines patients' rights by violating the "free-choice-of-provider provision" of the Medicaid Act.

Medina was previously known as *Kerr v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic*.

"Medicaid patients have the right to make their own decisions about where, how, and from whom they seek health care," said **Susan J. Frietsche, executive director of Women's Law Project**. "State authorities can't willy-nilly deprive a resident of critical health care just because they personally dislike the provider chosen by the patient."

Women's Law Project joined a friend-of-the-court brief filed to the U.S. Supreme Court by the Center for Reproductive Rights. The brief, joined by 16 other organizations dedicated to gender justice, supports Medicaid patients' well-established right to choose a health care provider.

[Read the brief here.](#)

"The patient protection provision at issue in this case was implemented in 1967 specifically to address bipartisan fears of big-government interference and control of the people's health care," said WLP Director of Impact and Engagement Tara Murtha. "Times have changed. Now, GOP lawmakers are actively fighting *for* government interference into our health care."

Medical experts say eliminating Planned Parenthood from the Medicaid program would disproportionately harm people of color, LGBTQ+ patients, and patients with disabilities—patient populations more likely to be disenfranchised from medical care.

Planned Parenthood provides critical preventive reproductive health care services like contraception, cervical cancer screenings, and referrals to breast exams.

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Founded in 1974, Women's Law Project is a public interest legal organization focused on advancing and defending the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in Pennsylvania and beyond.